VIZ PREMIERE COMICS

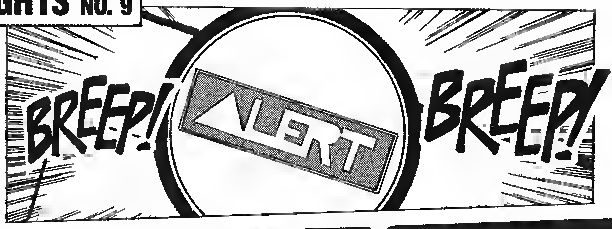
$4.25 USA/$5.25 CAN

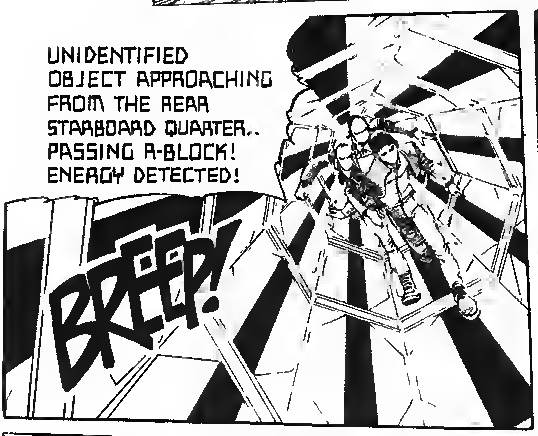
SIGNLOOP

NO. 9

Story and Art by

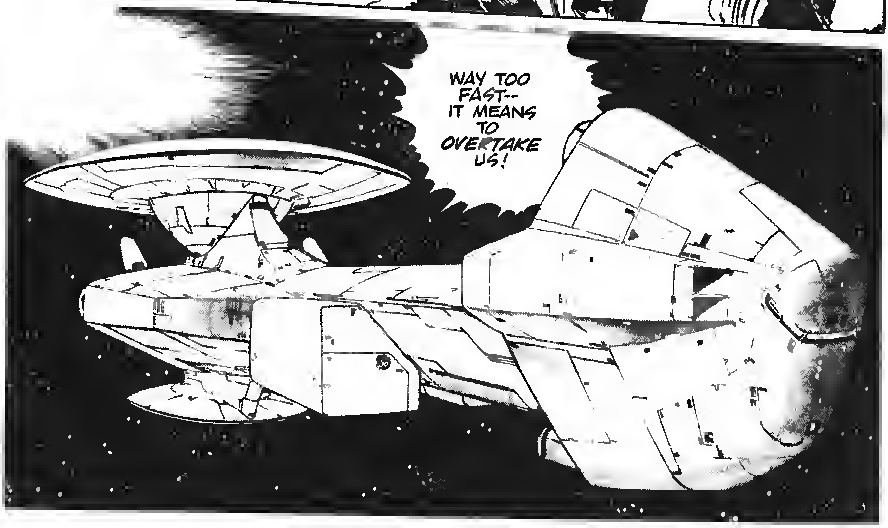
YUKINOBU HOSHINO

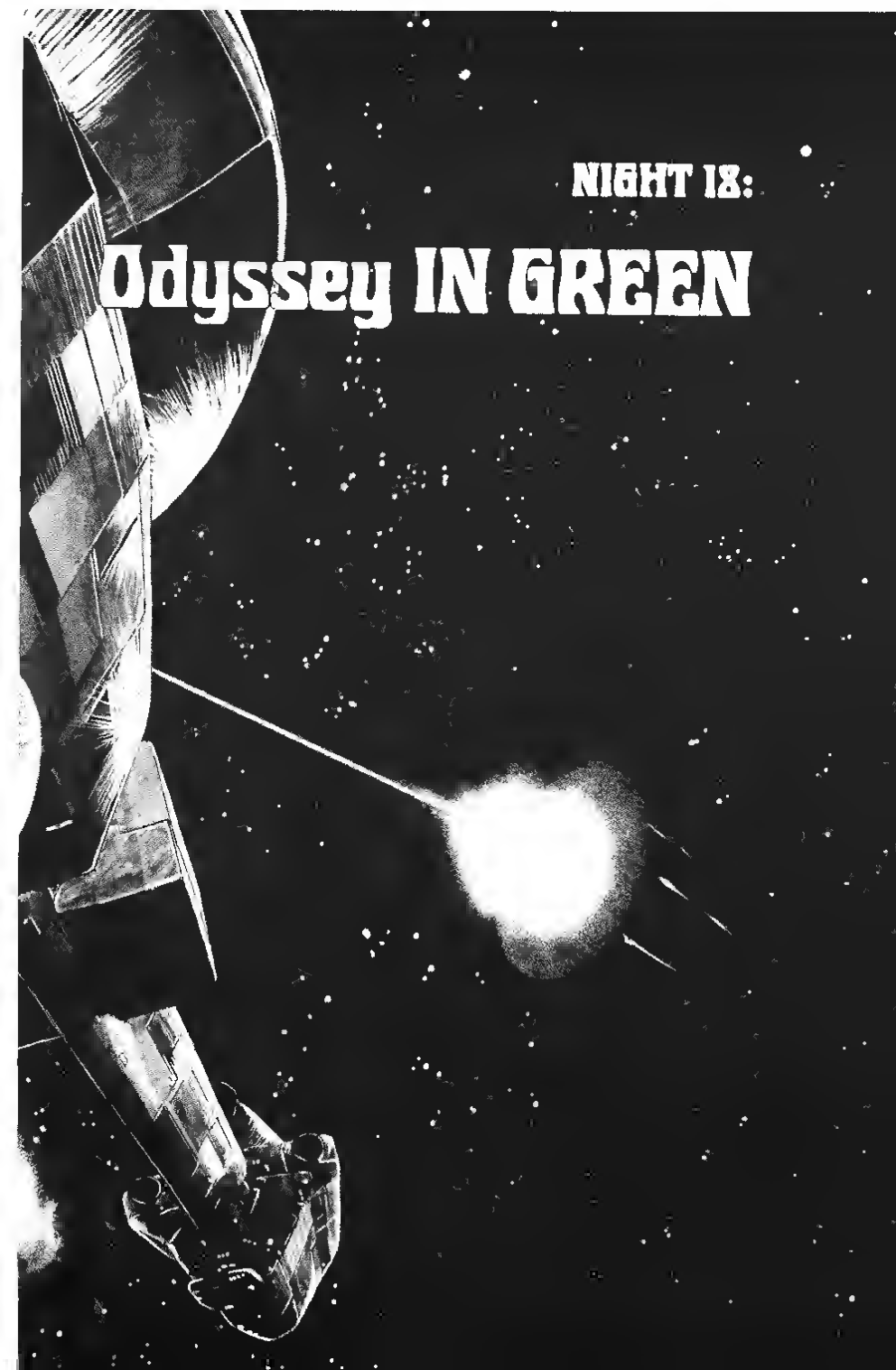

BREEP!
ALERT
BREEP!


UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT APPROACHING FROM THE REAR STARBOARD QUARTER.. PASSING A-BLOCK! ENERGY DETECTED!
BREEP!

PASSING M-BLOCK!

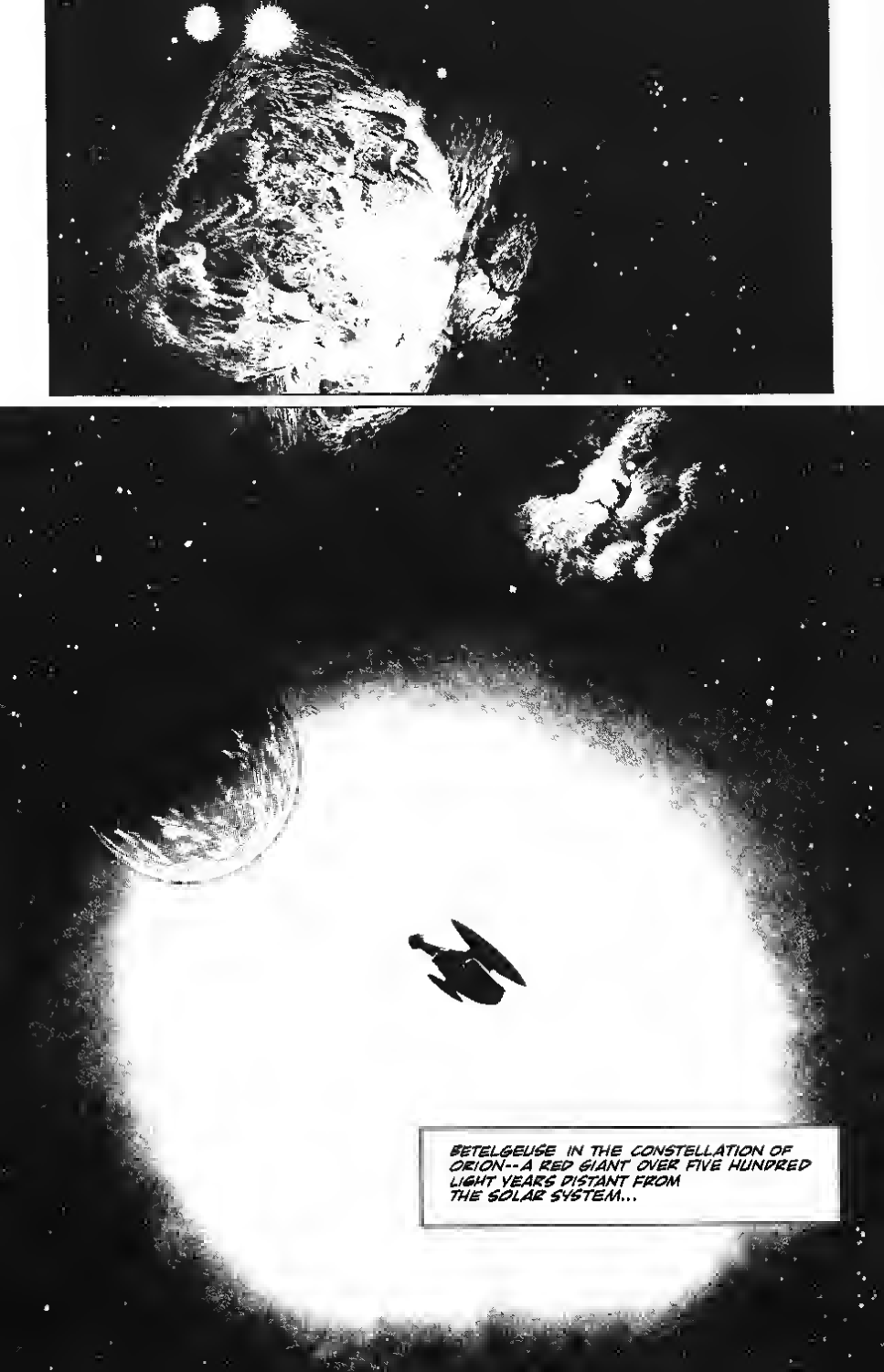
THAT'S NO METEOR-- NOT EVEN A COMET!


WAY TOO FAST-- IT MEANS TO OVERTAKE US!


NIGHT 18:
Odyssey IN GREEN

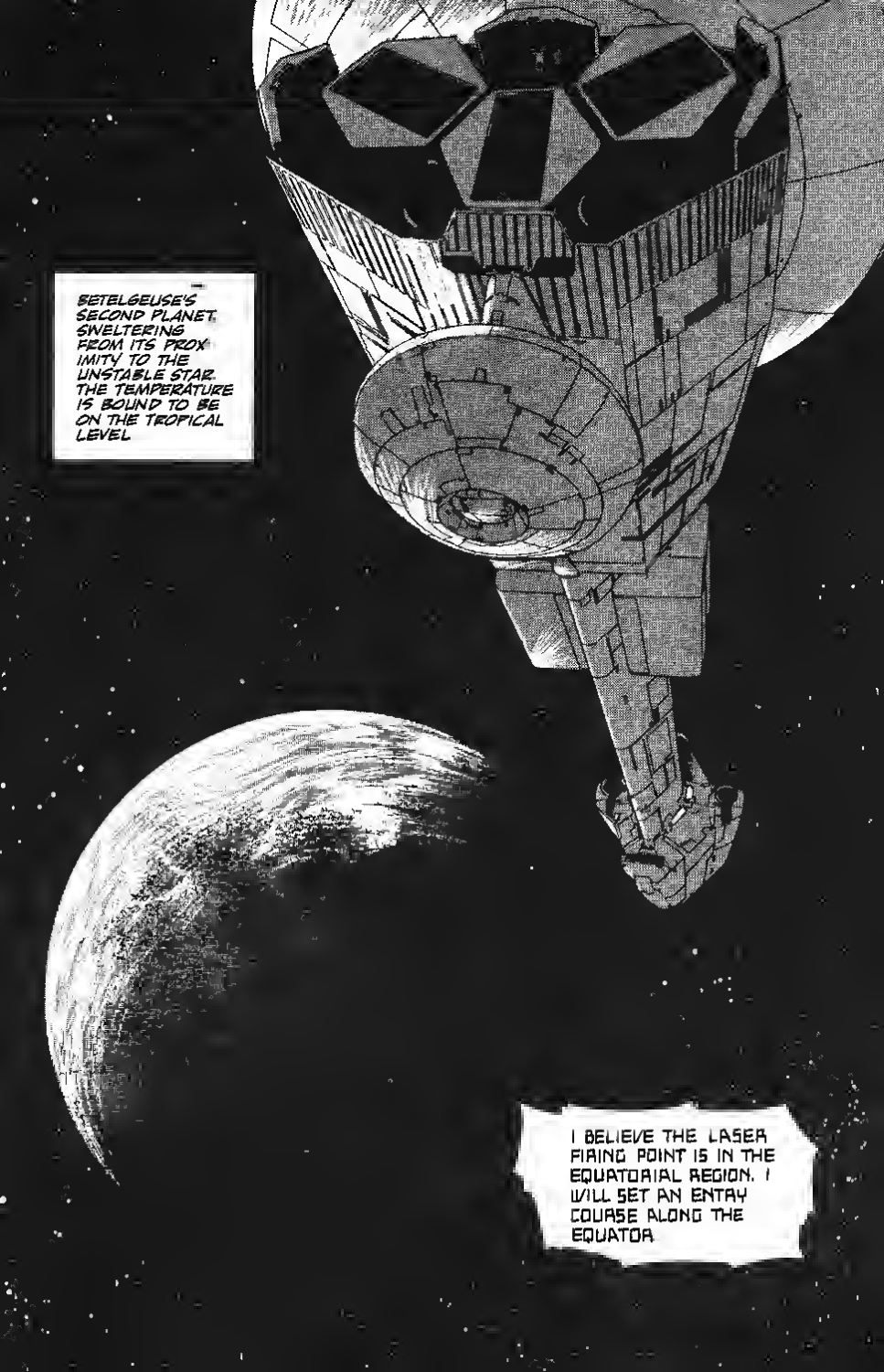
UNABLE TO ANALYZE SURFACE MATERIAL. DENSITY AND MASS UNKNOWN. SPEED RELATIVE TO STAR SYSTEM, 0.7 TIMES LIGHTSPEED...
ZERO POINT SEVEN TIMES LIGHTSPEED !?
THE ENERGY WE'RE DETECTING-- IS IT THAT INTERMITTENT FLASH OF LIGHT!?
FLASH IS REFLECTED LIGHT. A LASER PULSE OF TREMENDOUS OUTPUT IS RADIATING FROM BEHIND!
YOU MEAN... A LASER DRIVE !?

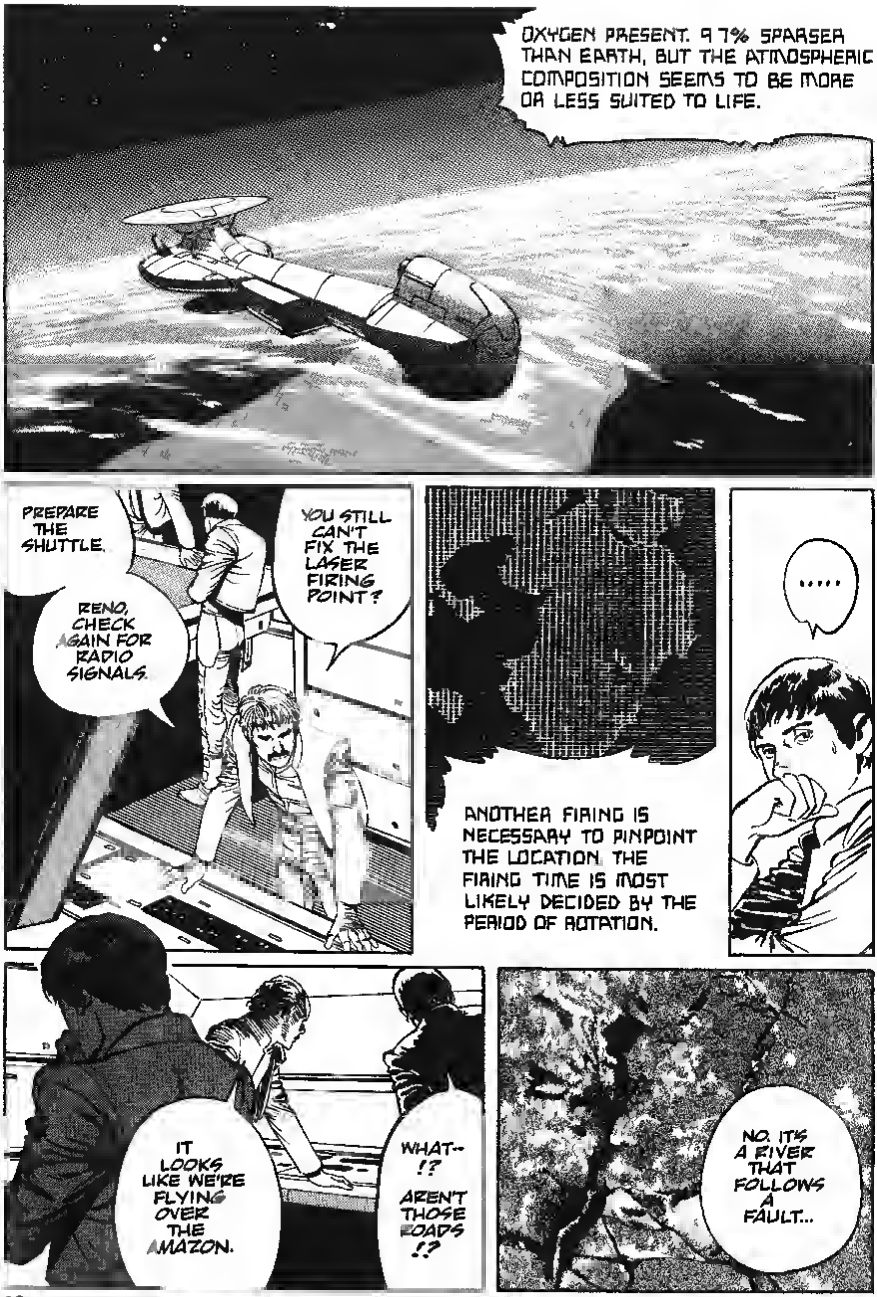
LASER DRIVE—A THEORETICAL FORM OF NAVIGATION BY WHICH A SUPER-OUTPUT LASER CANNON IS FIRED FROM THE GROUND, DRIVING A KIND OF SPACE YACHT WITH THE RESULTING LIGHT PRESSURE.
THE SHIP NEED NOT CARRY FUEL OR A DRIVE MECHANISM, SO IT IS SAID THAT IN THE CASE OF A STRICTLY OUTBOUND JOURNEY, THE SHIP CAN ACHIEVE NEAR-LIGHTSPEED BY MEANS OF CONTINUOUS ACCELERATION
IT'S NO GOOD. THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN CATCH UP WITH IT.
WHERE'S THE SOURCE OF THE LASER BLAST !?
BETELGEUSE II-- THE SECOND PLANET A DISTANCE OF 72!
A LASER-DRIVEN FLYING OBJECT FROM A REGION OF SPACE UNEXPLORED BY HUMANITY.. !?


BETELGEUSE IN THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION--A RED GIANT OVER FIVE HUNDRED LIGHT YEARS DISTANT FROM THE SOLAR SYSTEM...

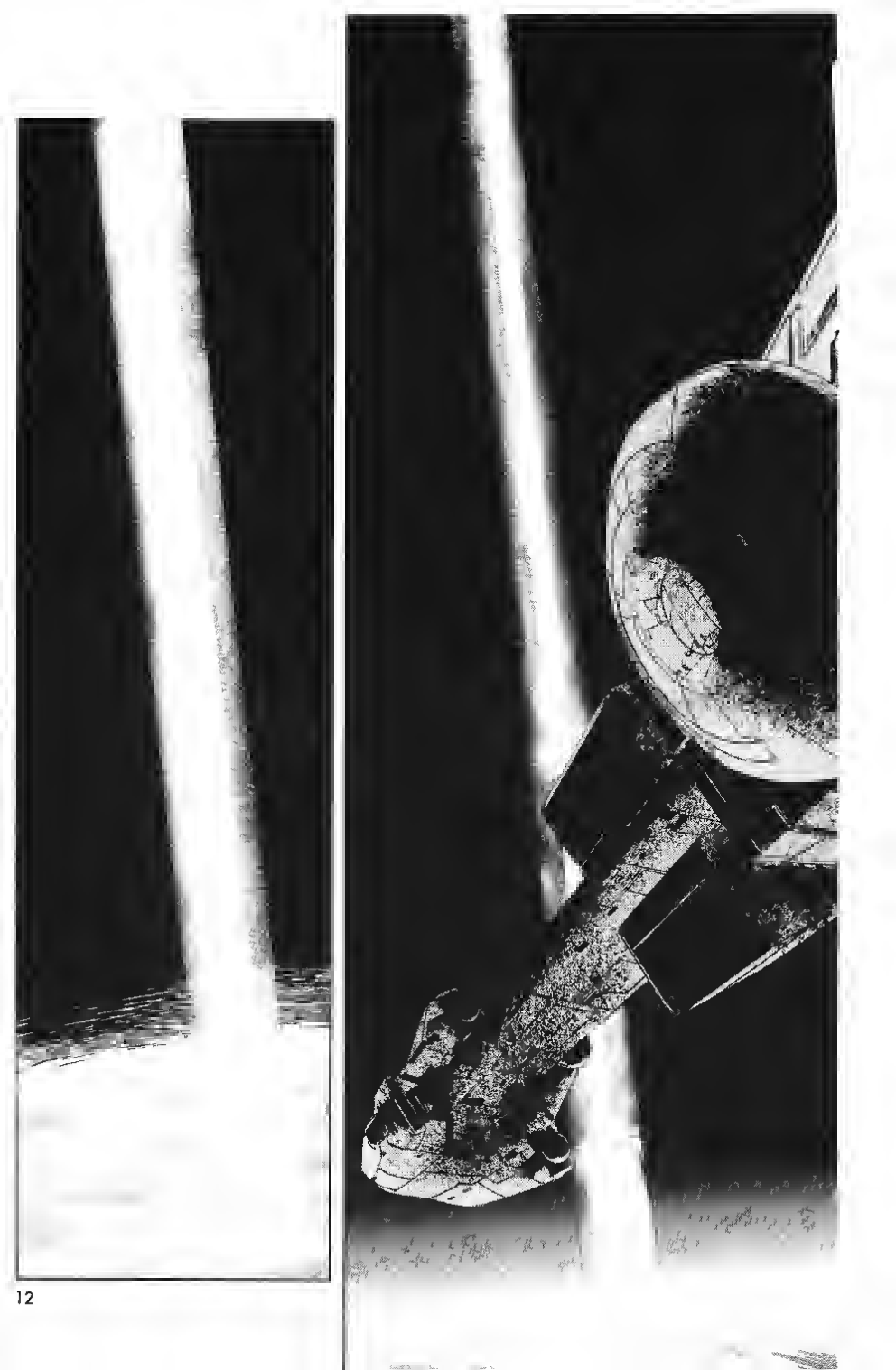
A HUGE STAR, ISN'T IT...? IN TERMS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM, A DIAMETER THAT WOULD REACH TO THE ORBIT OF JUPITER
BETELGEUSE'S FIRST PLANET HAS AN ORBIT ROUGHLY THE DIAMETER OF PLUTO'S!
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN PLANETS FURTHER IN...
...BUT THEY WERE ALL SWALLOWED UP BY THE RED GIANT!

THE STAR'S DIAMETER VARIES FROM SEVERAL HUNDRED TO A THOUSAND TIMES THE DIAMETER OF SOL.
IT'S A MONSTER.
AND UNSTABLE. IT'S QUIVERING ON THE BRINK OF CATASTROPHE.
CATASTROPHE ?
YEAH-- BOOM !
WHEN A STAR ENDS ITS LIFE, ALBERT, THE HUGE EXPLOSION TAKES THE SURROUNDING PLANETS WITH IT.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE BETELGEUSE SYSTEM HASN'T GOT LONG TO LIVE
A STAR SYSTEM IN ITS TWILIGHT, EH, CAPTAIN? MUST HAVE BEEN HERE AT LEAST SEVEN BILLION YEARS, I SUPPOSE.
YES--MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR LIFE TO EVOLVE
TO THE LEVEL OF SPACE EXPLORATION...?


BETELGEUSE'S SECOND PLANET. SWELTERING FROM ITS PROXIMITY TO THE UNSTABLE STAR. THE TEMPERATURE IS BOUND TO BE ON THE TROPICAL LEVEL
I BELIEVE THE LASER FIRING POINT IS IN THE EQUATORIAL REGION. I WILL SET AN ENTRY COURSE ALONG THE EQUATOR

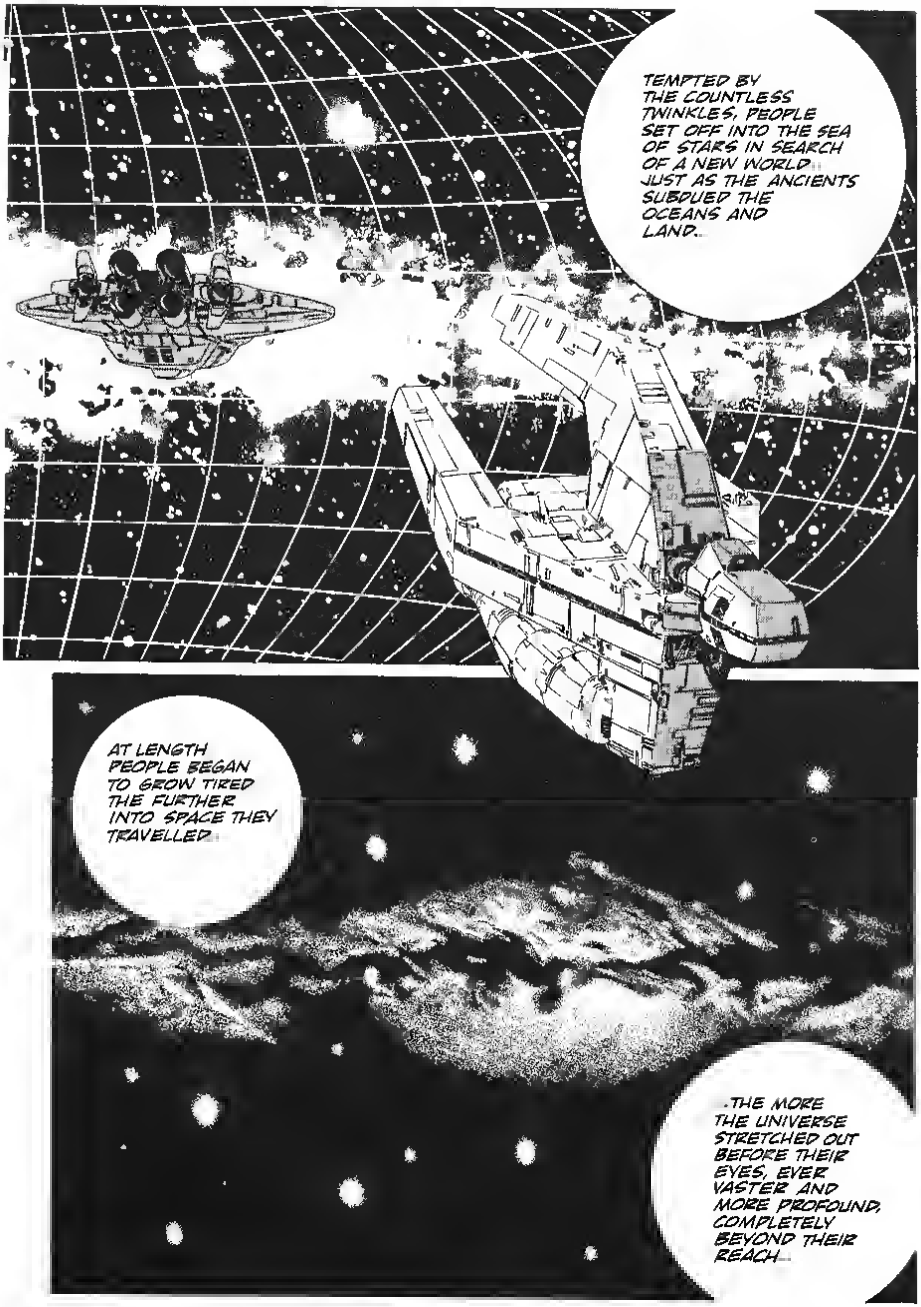

OXYGEN PRESENT. 97% SPARSER THAN EARTH, BUT THE ATMOSPHERIC COMPOSITION SEEMS TO BE MORE OR LESS SUITED TO LIFE.
PREPARE THE SHUTTLE.
YOU STILL CAN'T FIX THE LASER FIRING POINT?
RENO, CHECK AGAIN FOR RADIO SIGNALS.
ANOTHER FIRING IS NECESSARY TO PINPOINT THE LOCATION. THE FIRING TIME IS MOST LIKELY DECIDED BY THE PERIOD OF ROTATION.
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE FLYING OVER THE AMAZON.
WHAT--!? AREN'T THOSE ROADS!?
NO, IT'S A RIVER THAT FOLLOWS A FAULT...

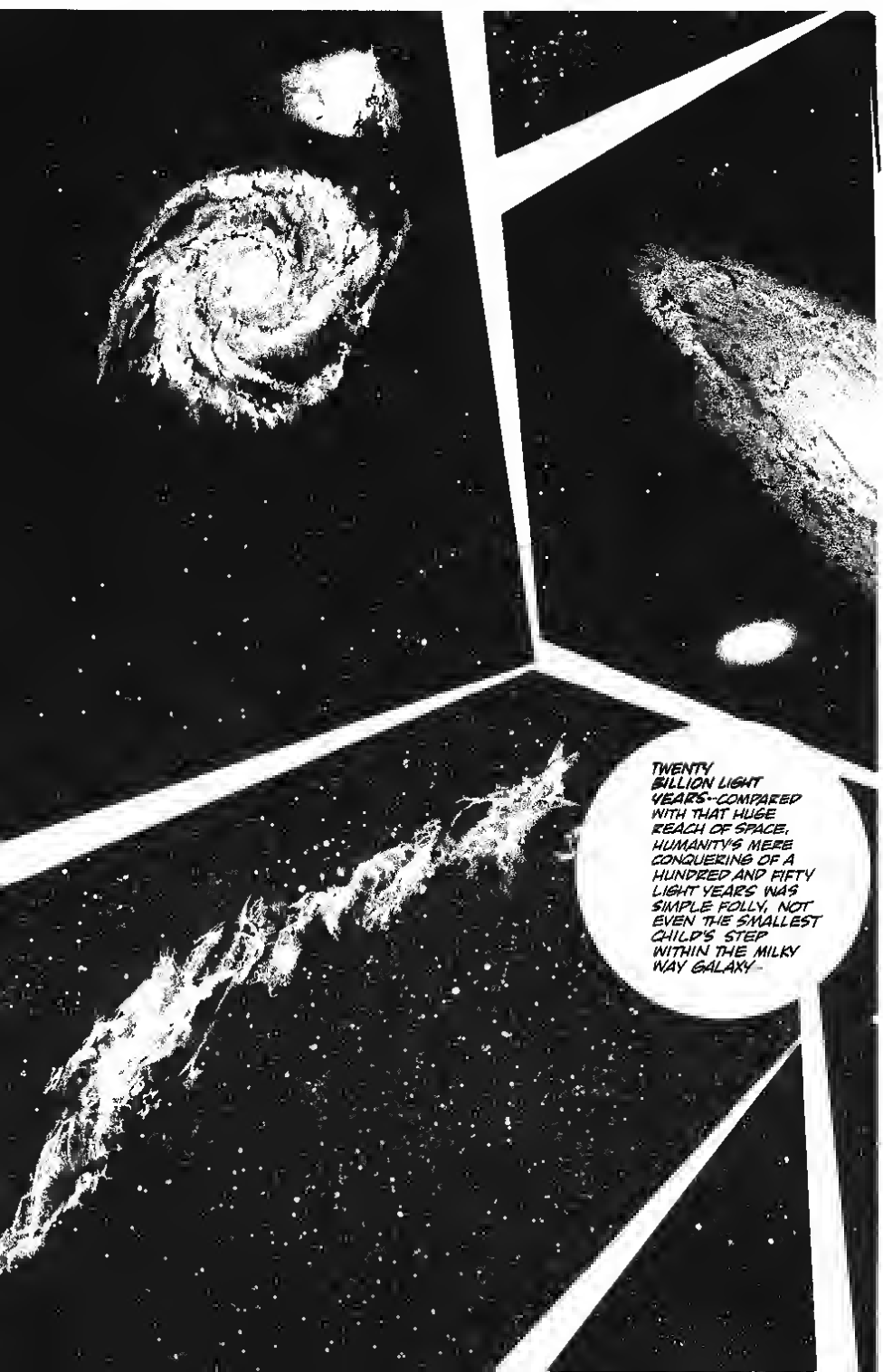
IT HAS SOMETHING OF A ROUGH-HEWN LOOK ABOUT IT
RECENTLY. ?
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A DRASTIC CHANGE IN THE PLANET'S CRUST RECENTLY...
TWO OR THREE MILLION YEARS AGO, SAY.
RECALCULATE! WHAT IF THE POWER OF THE LASER WAS MORE THAN A TRILLION WATTS...?
WHAT IS IT, IGOR ?
IT SEEMS WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE ATMOSPHERE, CAPTAIN. WE'D BETTER MOVE THE SHIP FURTHER AWAY!
WHAT !?
THAT'S NO RUN-OF-THE-MILL LASER ENERGY. !
WE DIDN'T TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE SHOCK WAVES WHEN IT PENETRATES THE ATMOSPHERE
IF THERE WERE ANOTHER FIRING..
BREEEP!
ALERT

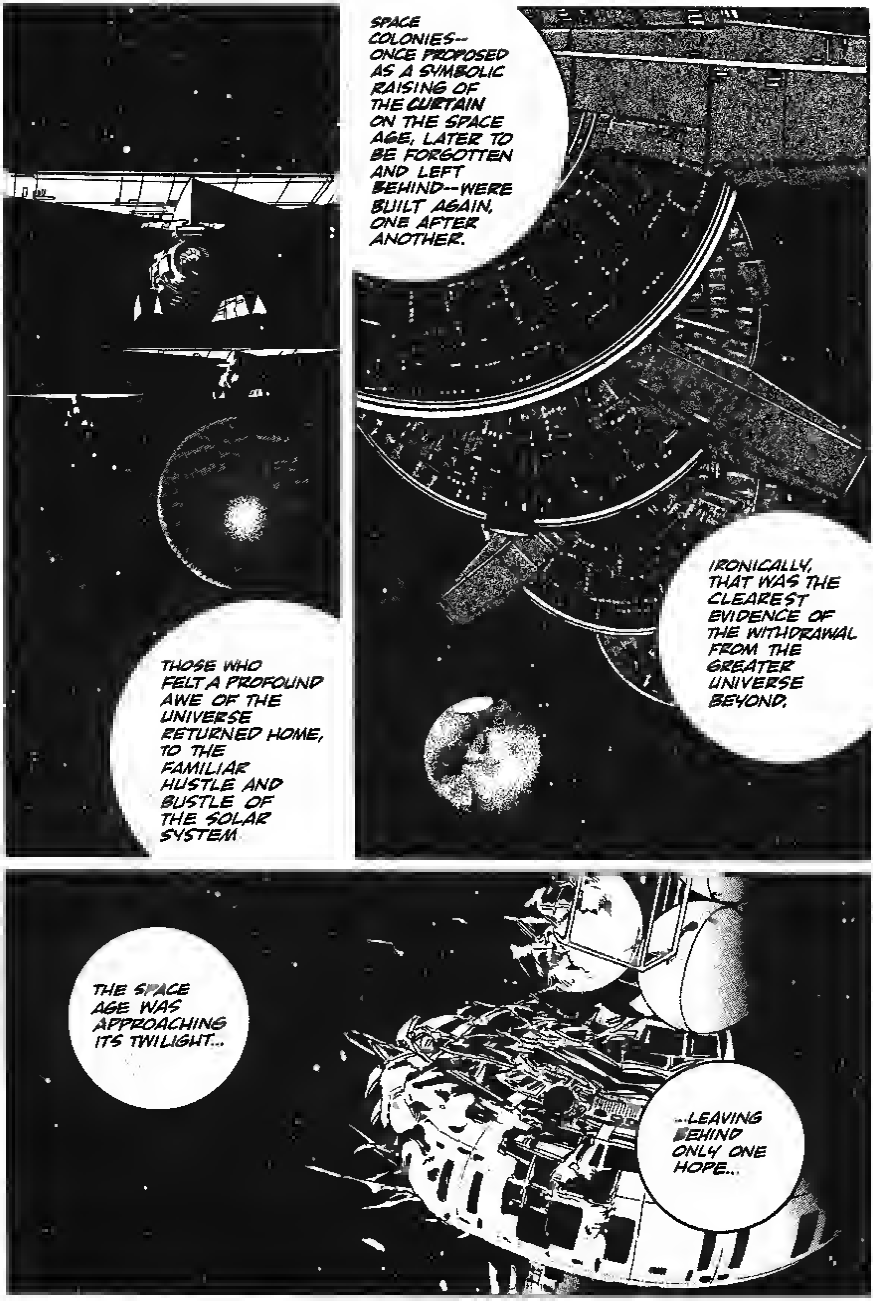


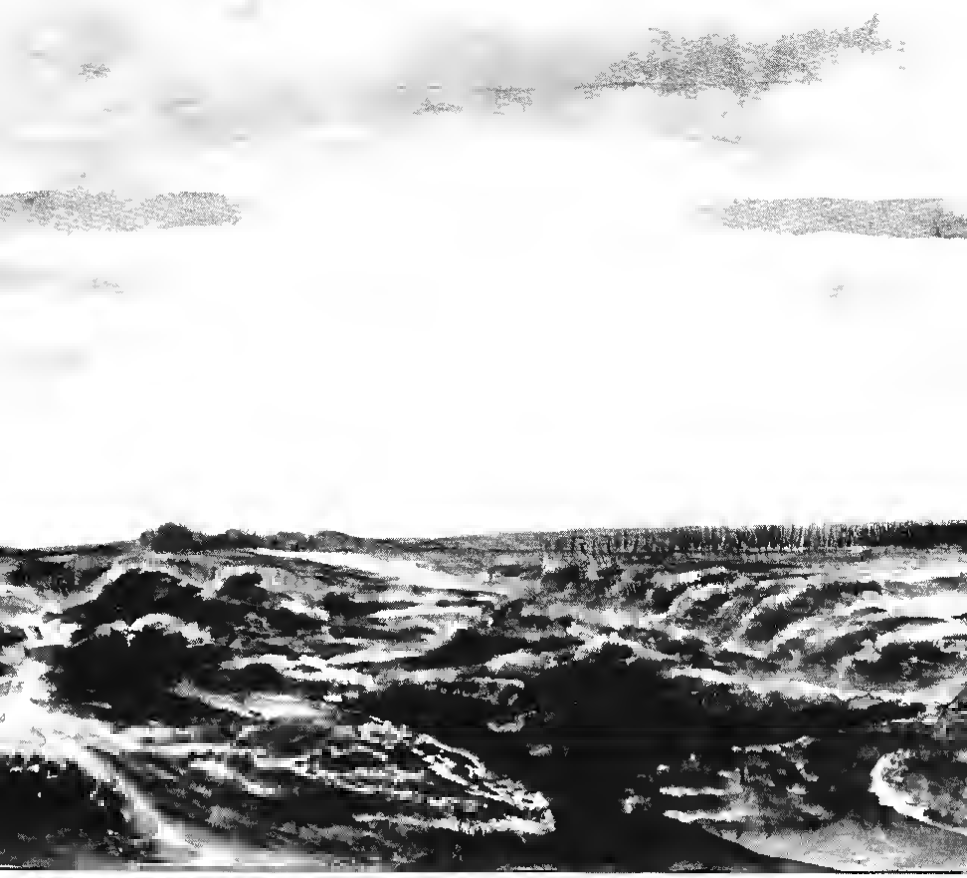
KABLAM
...1.3 TRILLION WATTS... 1.3 TRILLION WATTS... THE LASER ENERGY... SHOCK WAVE IN THE ATMOSPHERE...

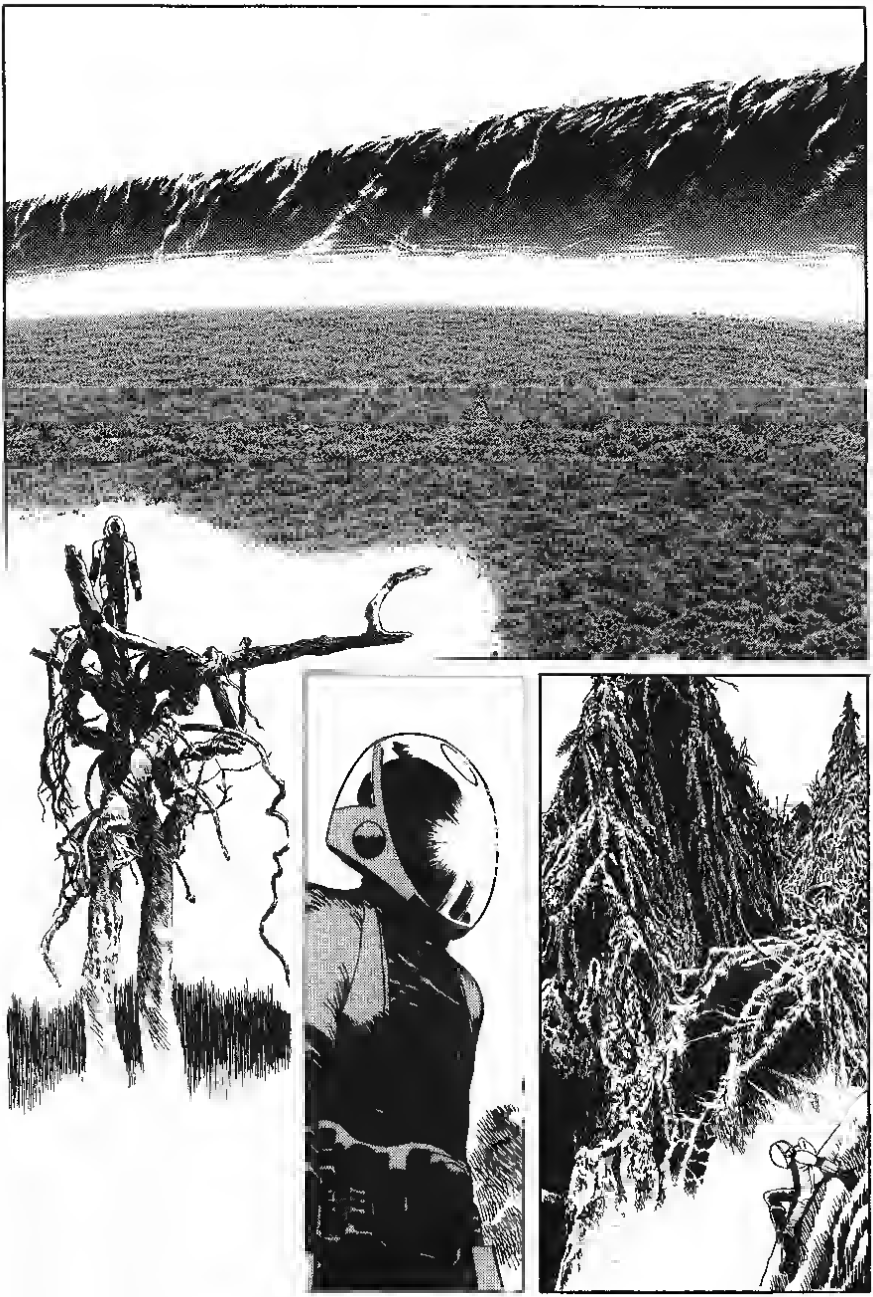
FOUR HUNDRED YEARS SINCE THE SPACE AGE DAWNED IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY... HUMANITY'S ADVANCE INTO SPACE HAS REACHED A RADIUS OF ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIGHT YEARS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
IN A NUMBER OF STAR SYSTEMS, ROBOT PLANTS WERE SET UP, COLONIES ESTABLISHED.
BUT THE FOREIGN PLANETS WERE TOO DIFFERENT FROM EARTH... MOST OF THE COLONIES EITHER MET WITH SOME UNANTICIPATED OBSTACLE AND WERE ABANDONED--OR THE FRAGILE HUMAN OUTPOSTS WERE DESTROYED BY UNFORESEEN FORCES...


TEMPTED BY THE COUNTLESS TWINKLES, PEOPLE SET OFF INTO THE SEA OF STARS IN SEARCH OF A NEW WORLD... JUST AS THE ANCIENTS SUBDUED THE OCEANS AND LAND...
AT LENGTH PEOPLE BEGAN TO GROW TIRED THE FURTHER INTO SPACE THEY TRAVELLED...
...THE MORE THE UNIVERSE STRETCHED OUT BEFORE THEIR EYES, EVER VASTER AND MORE PROFOUND, COMPLETELY BEYOND THEIR REACH...


TWENTY BILLION LIGHT YEARS--COMPARED WITH THAT HUGE REACH OF SPACE, HUMANITY'S MERE CONQUERING OF A HUNDRED AND FIFTY LIGHT YEARS WAS SIMPLE FOLLY, NOT EVEN THE SMALLEST CHILD'S STEP WITHIN THE MILKY WAY GALAXY.


SPACE COLONIES--ONCE PROPOSED AS A SYMBOLIC RAISING OF THE CURTAIN ON THE SPACE AGE, LATER TO BE FORGOTTEN AND LEFT BEHIND--WERE BUILT AGAIN, ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
IRONICALLY, THAT WAS THE CLEAREST EVIDENCE OF THE WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GREATER UNIVERSE BEYOND.
THOSE WHO FELT A PROFOUND AWE OF THE UNIVERSE RETURNED HOME, TO THE FAMILIAR HUSTLE AND BUSTLE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM
THE SPACE AGE WAS APPROACHING ITS TWILIGHT...
--LEAVING BEHIND ONLY ONE HOPE...

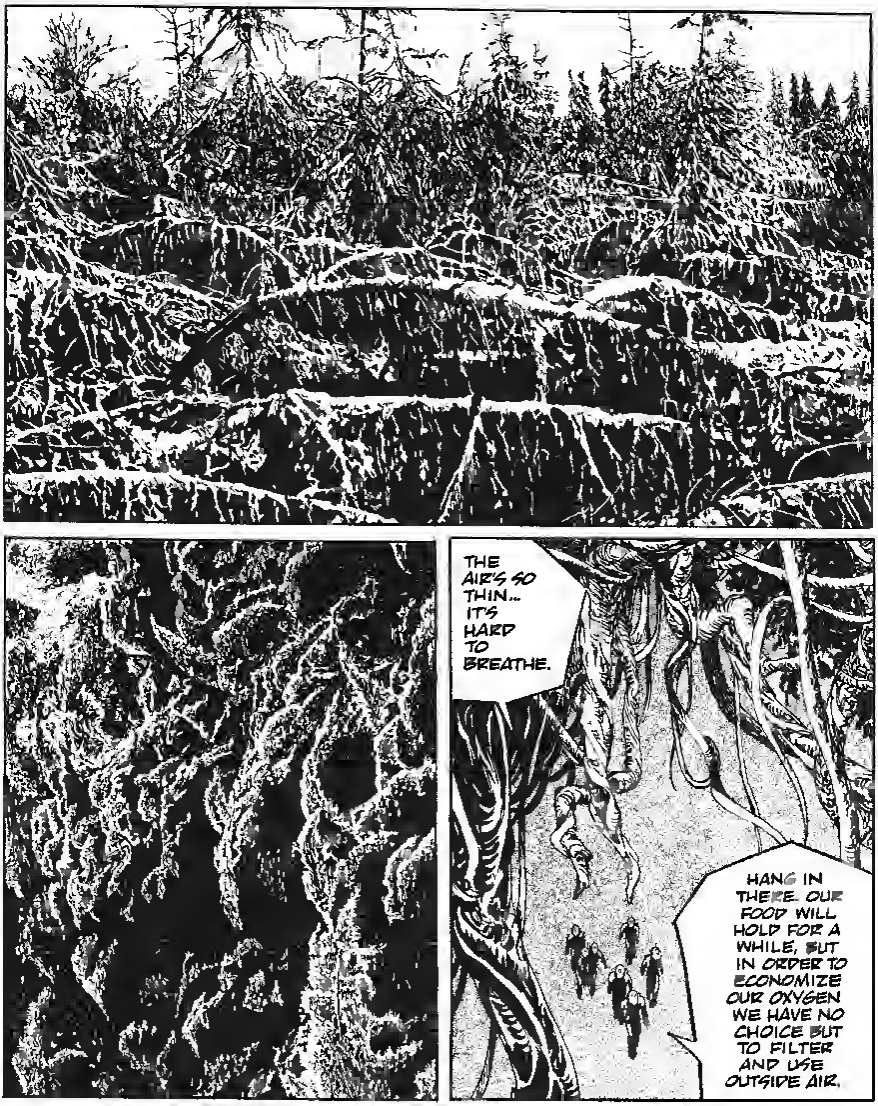




NOTHING.. ALL I CAN SEE IS THIS OCEAN OF TREES, GREEN THAT GOES ON AND ON, AND BETELGEUSE BURNING BRIGHT RED--THAT'S ALL.
AND CARINA? HOW IS SHE?
THE BONE'S BROKEN. WITH NO MED SUPPLIES BUT CONGLUTINATOR, IT'S GOING TO HURT.
COMPARED TO THE THREE WHO FAILED TO BOARD, YOU'RE LUCKY, CARINA.
YES... I GUESS SO.
THESE LEGS HAVE HAD IT TOO, CAPTAIN. THERE'S NO WAY THIS SHIP'S GONNA FLY NOW.
THAT'S JUST FINE I DON'T LIKE SHUTTLES. I GET AIRSICK...

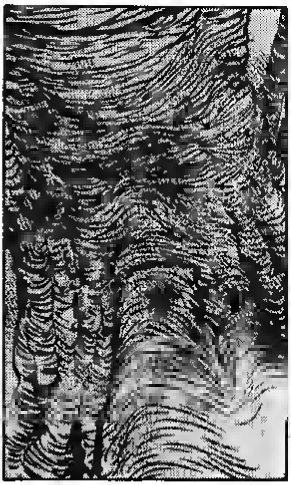
WHAT'D YOU SAY !?
YOU'RE TRYING TO TELL ME THAT YOU HAVEN'T REPORTED OUR PRESENCE HERE TO ANYONE !?
WE'RE UNDER SPECIAL REGULATIONS, BRUNO.
IF WE CARELESSLY SEND OUT RADIO MESSAGES IN A STAR SYSTEM THAT MIGHT CONTAIN A HIGHLY DEVELOPED CIVILIZATION, THERE'S A CLEAR DANGER OF INTERCEPTION.
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT INTELLIGENT ALIENS WOULD BE FRIENDLY, YOU KNOW...
BUT WHAT ABOUT A RESCUE !?
YEAH! WHO'S GOING TO SAVE US!? WITHOUT A SPACESHIP, WE'LL BE HERE FOREVER..

THE LASER!
HMMMMMM
QUICK! MONITOR THAT DIRECTION!
MEASURE THE TIME TILL THE SHOCK WAVE COMES! WE'LL CALCULATE THE DISTANCE.


THE AIR'S SO THIN... IT'S HARD TO BREATHE.
HANG IN THERE. OUR FOOD WILL HOLD FOR A WHILE, BUT IN ORDER TO ECONOMIZE OUR OXYGEN WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FILTER AND USE OUTSIDE AIR.
AND IF WE RUN OUT OF FOOD?
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND OUR WAY TO THE LASER BEFORE THEN BE THANKFUL IT'S ONLY TWO HUNDRED KILOMETERS

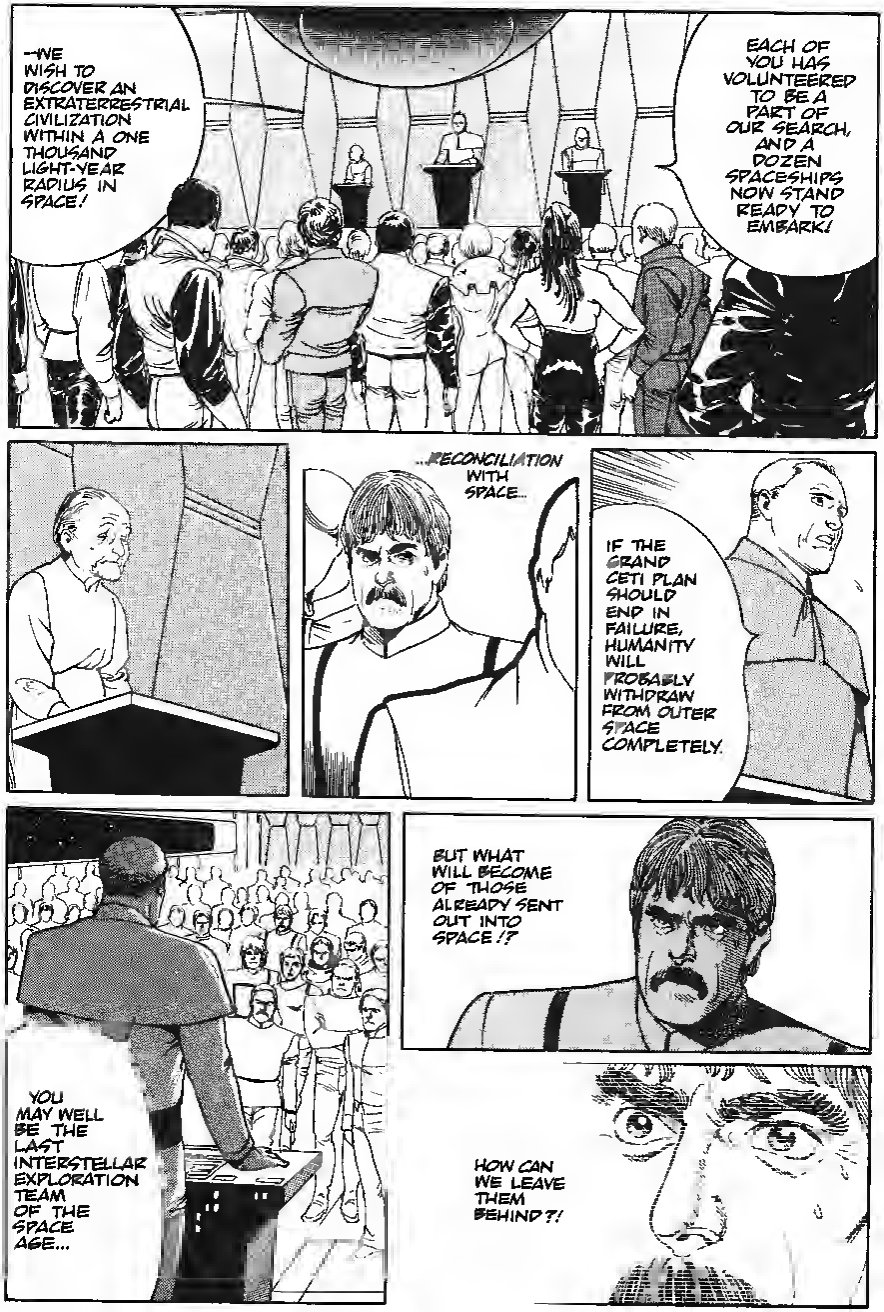
THERE'S NO POINT IN SITTING STILL.
I WANT TO SEE THIS ALIEN CIVILIZATION WITH MY OWN EYES—WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE.
WHERE THERE'S CIVILIZATION, THERE'S FOOD, TOO.
YEAH—BUT WE MAY WELL BE EATEN OURSELVES
DOES IT HURT, CARINA?
FTT
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT GAS DOWN THERE IS...?
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT. IF IT'S POISONOUS, THE DETECTOR SHOULD PICK IT UP.
ZEEET
ZEEET

WHAT--
WHAT
IS
THAT...
?



CAPTAIN ADAM ROBINSON--
ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THAT ROBINSON FAMILY...
...THE ROBINSON SPACE FOUNDATION THAT WENT BANKRUPT AFTER UNDERTAKING THAT LARGE-SCALE PLANET CONVERSION AT TAU CETI?
HOW STRANGE...
IT SEEMS YOU ROBINSONS HAVE A MYSTERIOUS BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH YOUR VEINS.
ALMOST ALL ROBINSONS HAVE SET OFF FOR SPACE-- AND DIED IN SPACE.
OUR FAMILY HAS LIVED ALONGSIDE THE SPACE AGE, PROFESSOR CASSIOPEIA.
IS THAT SO STRANGE?

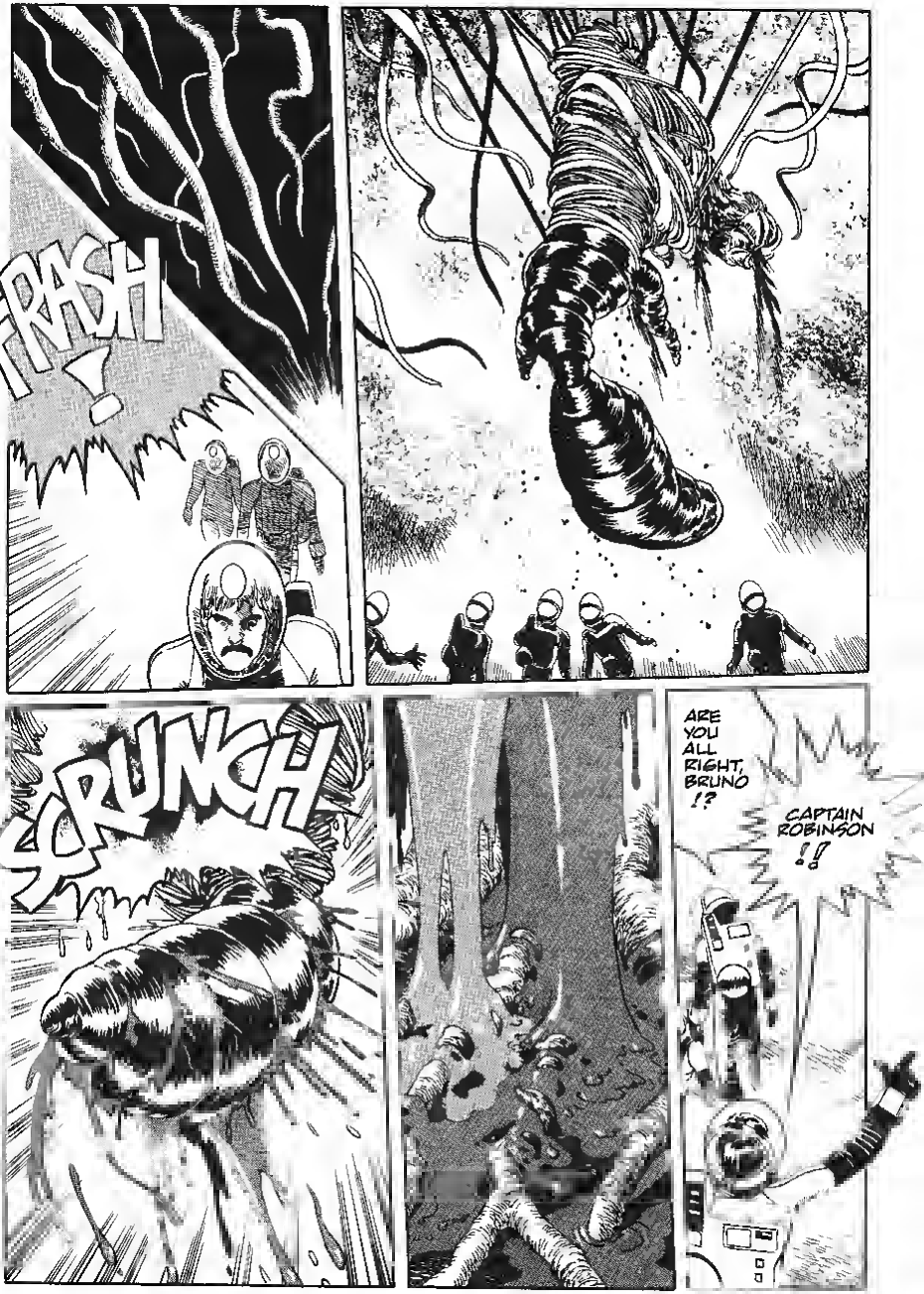
IT'S ALMOST AS IF YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH SPACE...
NOT TO THE DEGREE OF THE "NEW GENERATION." WE'RE A REAL OLD-FASHIONED BUNCH... HA, HA.
YES...
THERE MUST BE A REASON.
ISN'T YOUR FAMILY SEEKING SOME KIND OF RECONCILIATION WITH SPACE?
LET ME EXPLAIN THE GRAND CETI PLAN—
EXCUSE ME...


--WE WISH TO DISCOVER AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL CIVILIZATION WITHIN A ONE THOUSAND LIGHT-YEAR RADIUS IN SPACE!
EACH OF YOU HAS VOLUNTEERED TO BE A PART OF OUR SEARCH, AND A DOZEN SPACESHIPS NOW STAND READY TO EMBARK!
...RECONCILIATION WITH SPACE...
IF THE GRAND CETI PLAN SHOULD END IN FAILURE, HUMANITY WILL PROBABLY WITHDRAW FROM OUTER SPACE COMPLETELY.
BUT WHAT WILL BECOME OF THOSE ALREADY SENT OUT INTO SPACE!?
YOU MAY WELL BE THE LAST INTERSTELLAR EXPLORATION TEAM OF THE SPACE AGE...
HOW CAN WE LEAVE THEM BEHIND?!

..ANYWAY, WHAT'S NEEDED RIGHT NOW IS CONTACT WITH A NEW CIVILIZATION.
AT THIS RATE, THE SPACE AGE WILL COME TO A COMPLETE END.
HUMANKIND NEEDS SOME NEW HOPE IN ORDER TO TURN OUR EYES TO SPACE ONCE MORE...
MASSIVE EXCHANGE WITH AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT CIVILIZATION!
INTELLIGENT LIFE FORMS INHABITING THE SAME MILKY WAY!
IF THEY KNEW HUMANITY WAS NOT ALONE.
...THEN ONCE AGAIN THE COURAGE TO SET OFF INTO SPACE WOULD...
HEY-- WHAT'S HAPPENED? IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE. I FEEL LIKE I COULD EVEN DANCE
ME TOO! SHALL WE DANCE TOGETHER?
Hee, hee, hee! BUT HERE'S THE BEST PART-- ON MARS COLONY, YOU SEE...
HA, HA, HA. MARS, YOU SAY? REALLY...?
Hee, hee, hee. SO, ANYWAY..

.....
CHK
SSSSSSS
CAPTAIN ROBINSON! SWITCH TO YOUR OXYGEN CYLINDER!
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT SILLINESS, IGOR?
CHIK
THIS GAS IS HIGH-DENSITY OXYGEN.
WE WERE DRUNK ON OXYGEN POISONING!
G-CARINA?
EVERYONE! CUT OFF THE EXTERNAL AIR! DON'T BREATHE IN!
LOOK, ALBERT, LOOK. I CAN DANCE. SEE..?
Ah, ha, ha, ha...

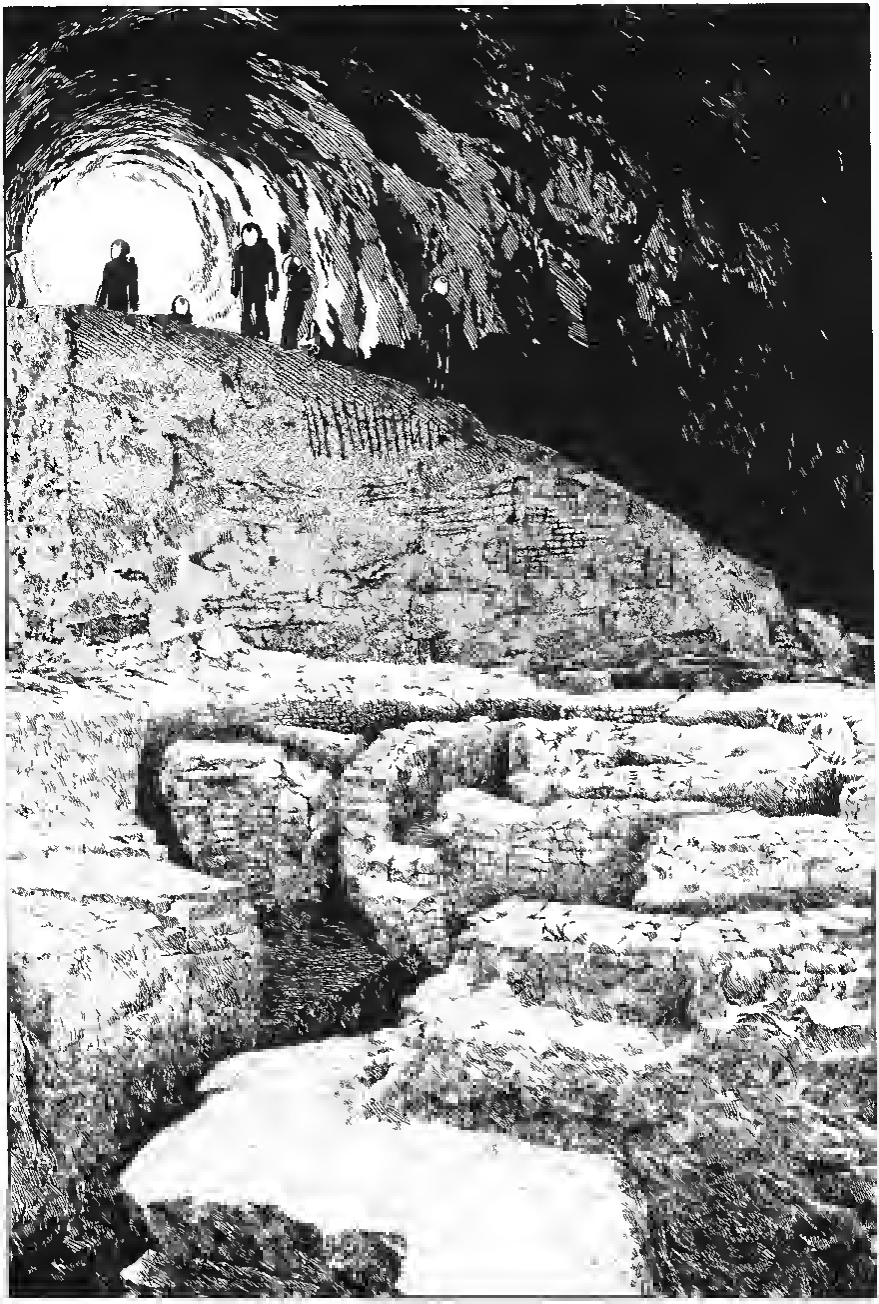
CARINA !?
CARINA !!
ZEEET
ZEEET
BROOWRR
AIEEEE!


FRASH!
SCRUNCH
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, BRUNO!?
CAPTAIN ROBINSON!!

STK
SCLK
SKUK
ZEEEET
GARINA!
ZEEET
ZEEEEET

STOP! WE'RE SURROUNDED BY OXYGEN GAS, ALBERT! DO YOU WANT TO BURN TO DEATH!?
ROPE! IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO CLIMB UP FROM HERE
THAT WAS THE DEN OF A KIND OF FLESH-EATING PLANT, WASN'T IT...?
A TRAP THAT INTOXICATES ANIMALS BY EXHALING PURE OXYGEN...!
WAIT, CAPTAIN.
THIS LOOKS LIKE IT MUST BE PART OF THE LARGE FAULT WE SAW FROM THE AIR. I CAN SEE AN OUTCROP...
CHOK

GH
GH
GH



...THEY WERE HERE!
AN INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM EXISTED HERE!
WITHOUT A DOUBT

KRNK
KA KRAK
EFFLORESCENCE
"... THE FRESH AIR HAS CAUSED A SUDDEN ADVANCE IN THE NATURAL WEATHERING!
IS THERE ANYTHING LIKE A WALL PAINTING!? SEARCH !!
ANYTHING AT ALL JUST SOMETHING THAT SHOWS WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE!
KRAK

CHOK
SSSSSSHHA
NO GOOD
CHOK OK OK
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF BEING IT WAS...
...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT LIVED AN AWFULLY LONG TIME AGO.
.....
HOW LONG ?
TWO AND A HALF MILLION YEARS AGO!

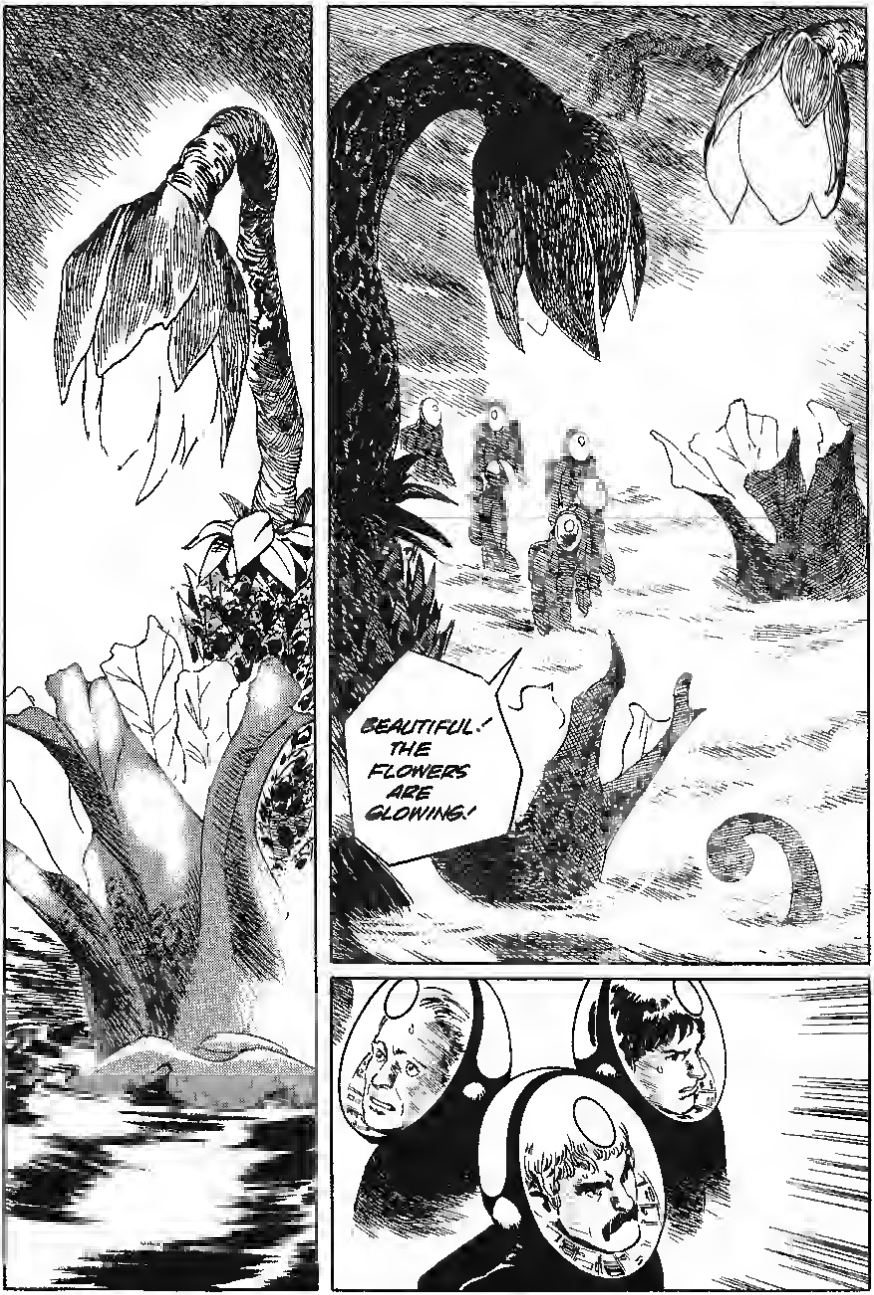
DO YOU REMEMBER THE SCARRING IN THE SURFACE WE SAW FROM THE SKY?
THESE RUINS WERE PROBABLY SWALLOWED UP BY THE FAULT AT THE TIME OF THAT NATURAL CALAMITY-- TWO AND A HALF MILLION YEARS AGO.
TNK
TWO AND A HALF MILLION YEARS
TOK
KA-KRAK
KRK
LOOK OUT!

TOOM
DAMN! THE ENTRANCE!
THE ROCKS HAVE ALL BEGUN TO COLLAPSE!
IT'S NO GOOD THEY KEEP FALLING! RETREAT!!
TOOM
LOOK!

AN UNDERGROUND LAKE? WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT HAZY, GREEN LIGHT IS...?
MAYBE LIGHT IS LEAKING IN FROM THE SURFACE!
WHY, IT'S ONLY WAIST DEEP!
AND THE BOTTOM IS HARD AND SOLID.
sposh

THIS MAY BE A CONTINUATION OF THE RUINS A STREET OR SOMETHING..
WHAT DO YOU THINK THEIR ANCIENT DISASTER WAS? JUST A MOVEMENT IN THE PLANET'S CRUST?
NO...
...THE CAUSE WAS PROBABLY--
SAOOSH
WHA?!
WHAT IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF AMPHIBIAN.
SEEMS LIKE THE ANIMALS ON BETELGEUSE II ARE NOTHING BUT PRIMITIVE TYPES, DOESN'T IT?

I WAS THINKING THE SAME THING.
THE BIOTA MAY HAVE ONCE BEEN IN A STATE OF RUIN.
SO THE GUYS WHO LEFT THE CITY BEHIND MAY HAVE ALSO BEEN DESTROYED ?
BUT THEN WHO'S FIRING THE LASER... !?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT IT MAY BE ANOTHER SPECIES.
AFTER ALL, TWO AND A HALF MILLION YEARS IS THE TIME IT TOOK HUMANITY TO EVOLVE FROM PROSIMIANS.
IT'S ALSO ENOUGH TIME FOR AN INTELLIGENT RACE TO DEVOLVE AS WELL


BEAUTIFUL! THE FLOWERS ARE GLOWING!

WHY WOULD GREEN PLANTS BE THIS FAR UNDERGROUND.. !?
THESE COULD BE THE RUINS OF CIVILIZATION, TOO, JUST TERRIBLY WEATHERED.
.....
WHAT IS IT THAT'S GIVING OFF LIGHT? IS IT A LIGHT-PRODUCING MATTER-- LIKE LUMINOUS MOSS?

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT. THE LIGHT'S ACTUALLY SHINING FROM INSIDE THE STEM...
IT'S A DEAD END HERE. I GIVE UP!
LOOK. IT GETS DEEPER.
THE PLANTS MAY GO UNDER HERE AND THEN UP TO THE SURFACE...
LET'S DIVE DOWN AND SEE. OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO GO AS FAR AS WE CAN.
CAPTAIN !?
DEVOLUTION? IT COULDN'T BE...

SHK
LOOK!
WHUD
THE PLANT'S CELLS ARE SOMEHOW CARRYING THE LIGHT--!?
IT'S A KIND OF OPTICAL FIBER!
LIGHT FROM THE SURFACE IS TRANSMITTED UNDERGROUND THROUGH THESE LONG STEMS
SUCH A PROCESS MAKES PHOTOSYNTHESIS POSSIBLE EVEN HERE, WHERE IT SHOULD BE PITCH BLACK!
PLANTS WITH A SIMILAR SYSTEM EXIST ON EARTH AS WELL.

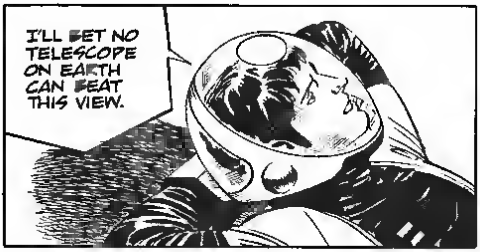
IT'S SLIPPERY, SO BE CAREFUL.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO TO SUCH TROUBLE?
THERE MAY BE AN INTELLIGENT LIFE FORM WAITING ABOVE, YOU KNOW.
I THINK I CAN GUESS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...
...A HUGE GIANT WITH A HARP AND A GOOSE THAT LAYS GOLDEN EGGS.
HUH !?
WATER! HOLD ON TIGHT !!
whshhh
SPLOOSH

NOO!
CLIMB! IF WE STAY HERE, WE'LL FALL!
WHSSH

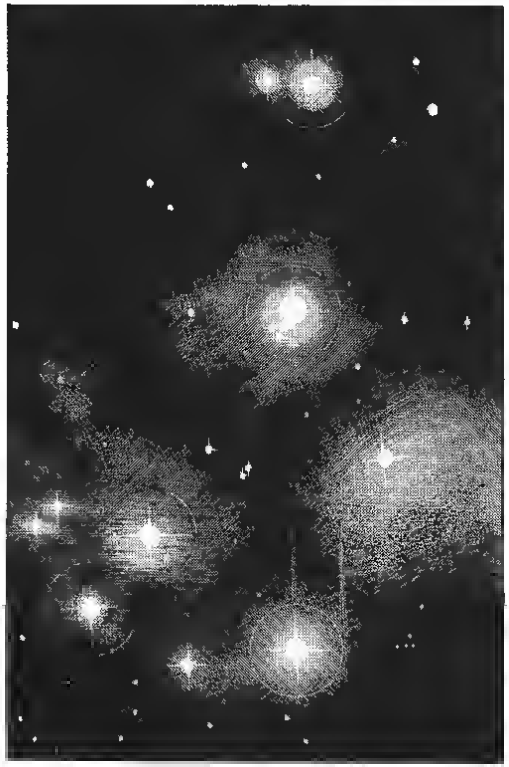
hff
uff hff
Phew...
LET'S GET OFF IN THE MORNING, I COULDN'T MOVE ANOTHER INCH IF MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT...

CARINA, BRUNO, AND ALBERT--DEAD. FOUR OF US LEFT, EH?
JUST HOW MANY WILL MAKE IT TO OUR DESTINATION, IGOR?
WE KNEW THIS MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN WE STARTED. IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAPTAIN.
LOOK...
...IT'S THE GREAT NEBULA OF ORION...!

A HUGE CLOUD OF INTERSTELLAR DUST AND GAS THIRTY LIGHT YEARS ACROSS...
...EVEN NOW, NEW STARS ARE BEING BORN IN THAT CENTRAL SHINING AREA


I'LL BET NO TELESCOPE ON EARTH CAN BEAT THIS VIEW.

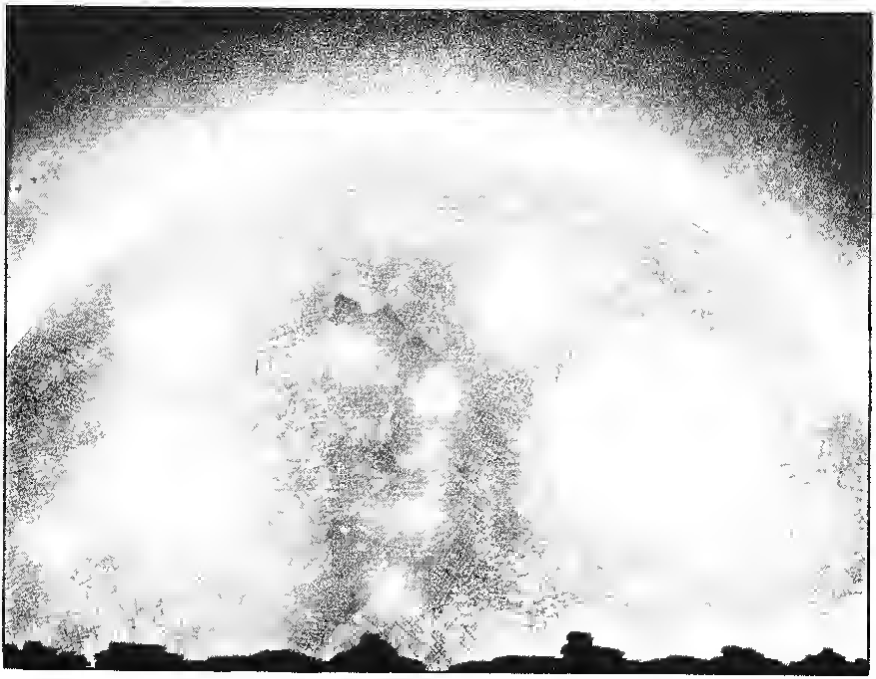
THAT BLUISH LIGHT THERE IS BETA RIGEL, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S ANOTHER SUPERGIANT THAT WAS BORN NOT LONG AGO.

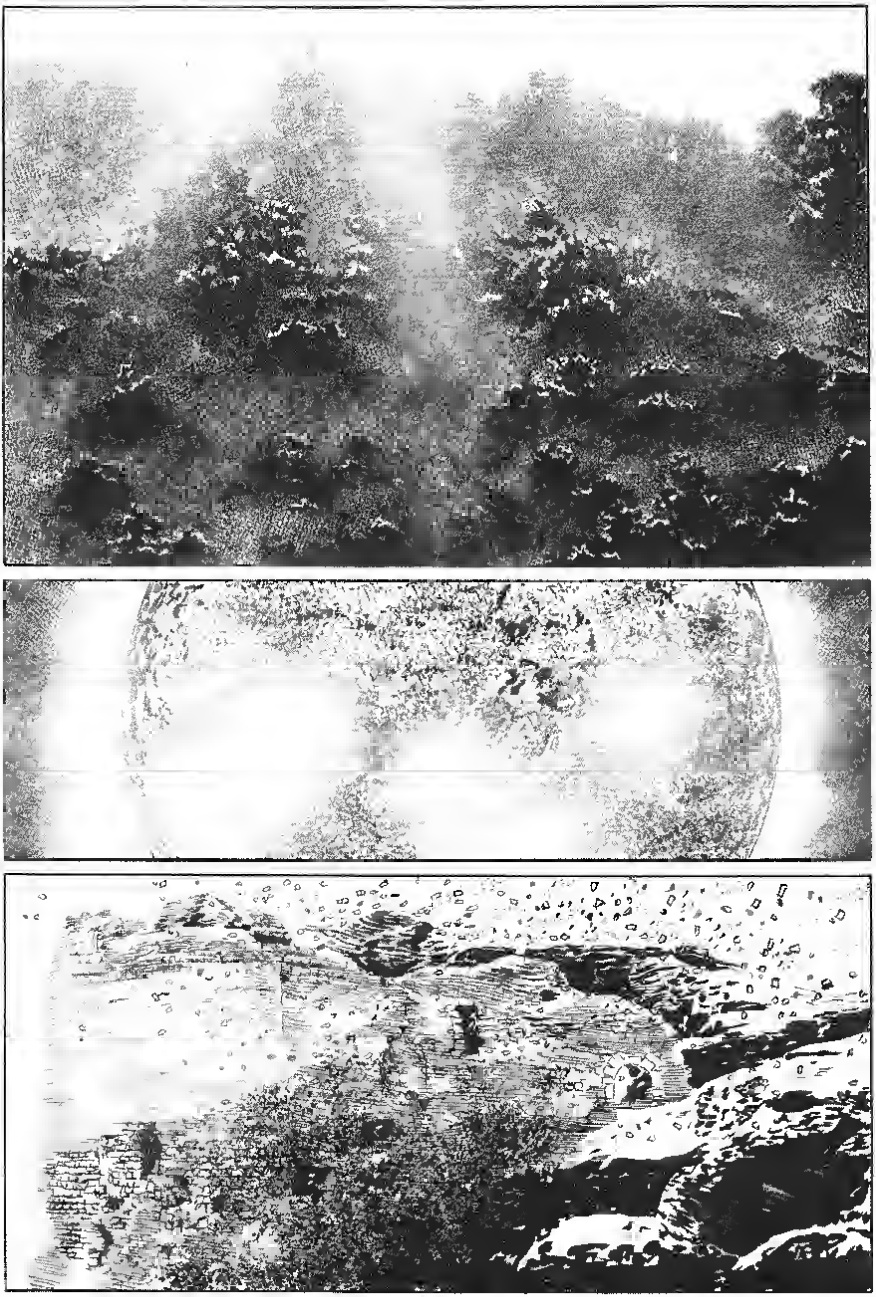


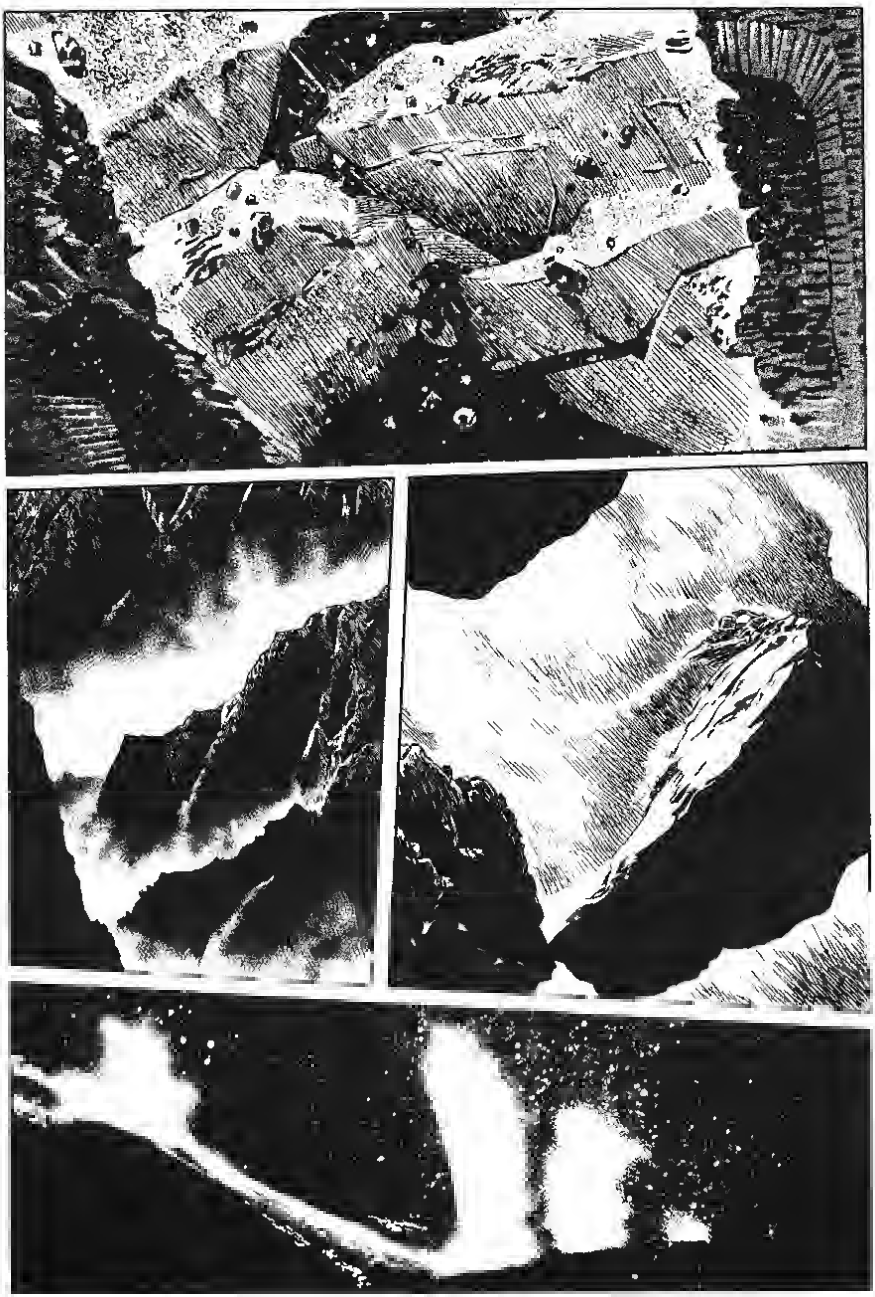
IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

IRONIC THAT THE BETELGEUSE SYSTEM ALONE, SURROUNDED BY YOUNG STARS, IS SO OLD...

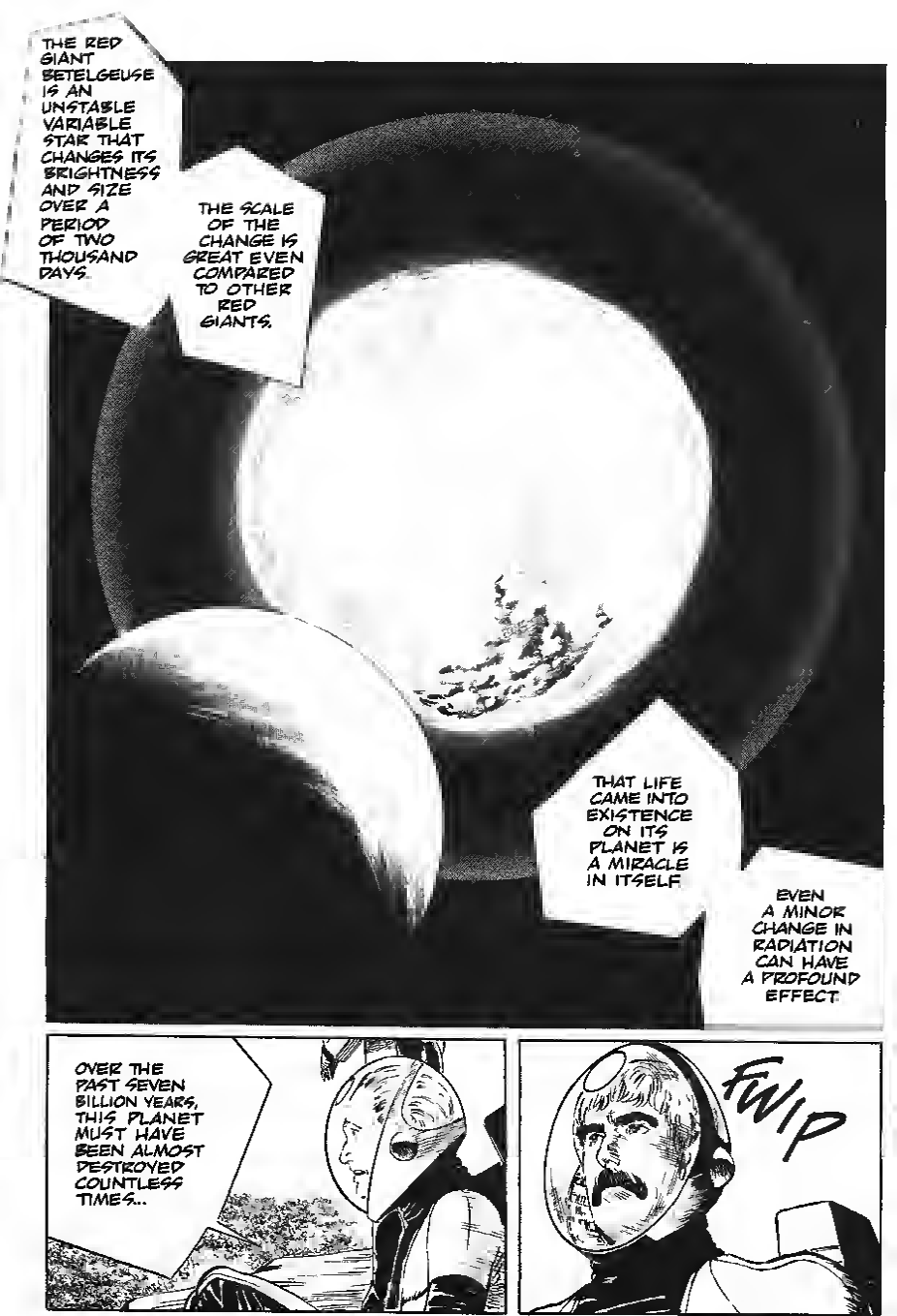
THE CREATURES OF THIS PLANET HAVE BEEN GAZING AT THESE BEAUTIFUL HEAVENS SINCE TIME OUT OF MIND HAVEN'T THEY..?

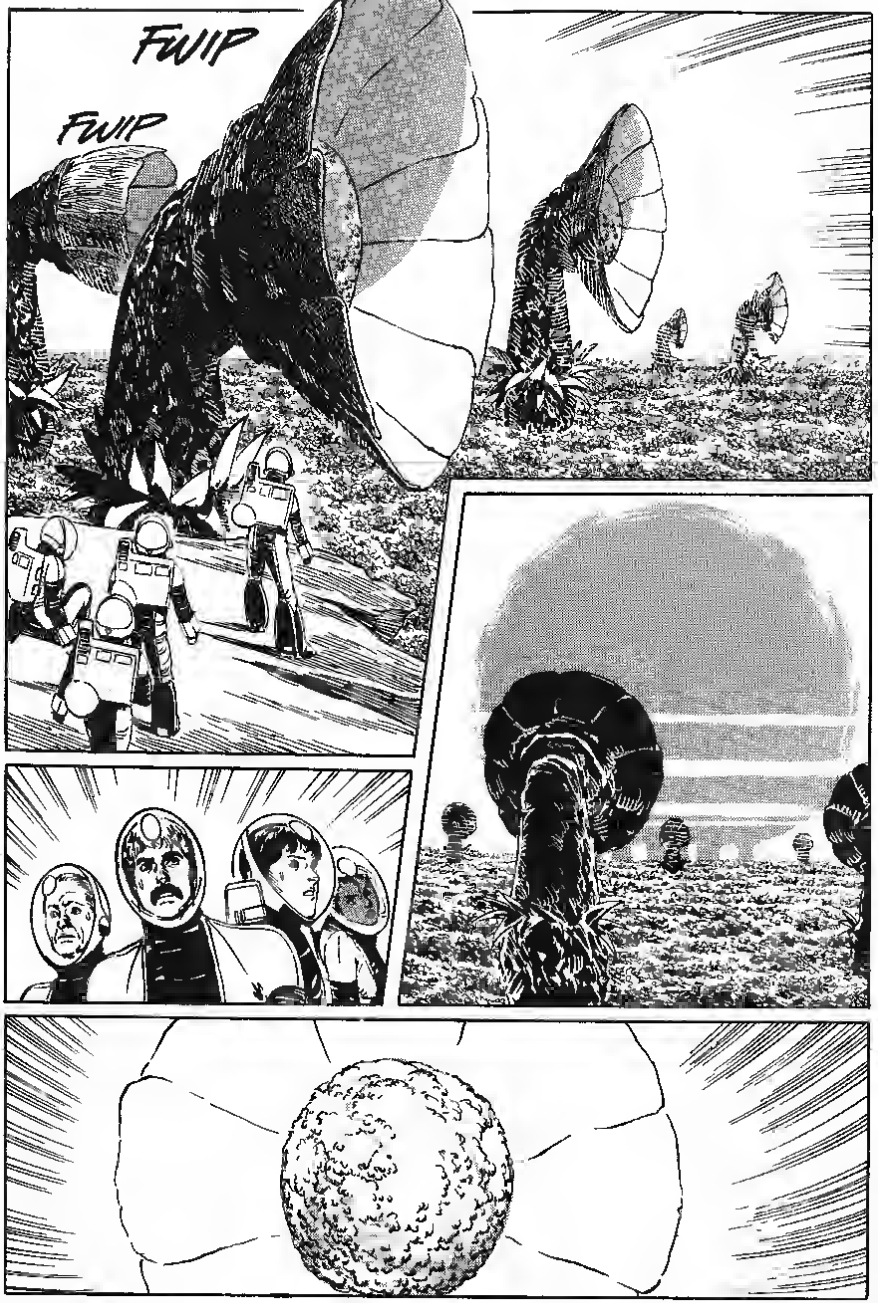


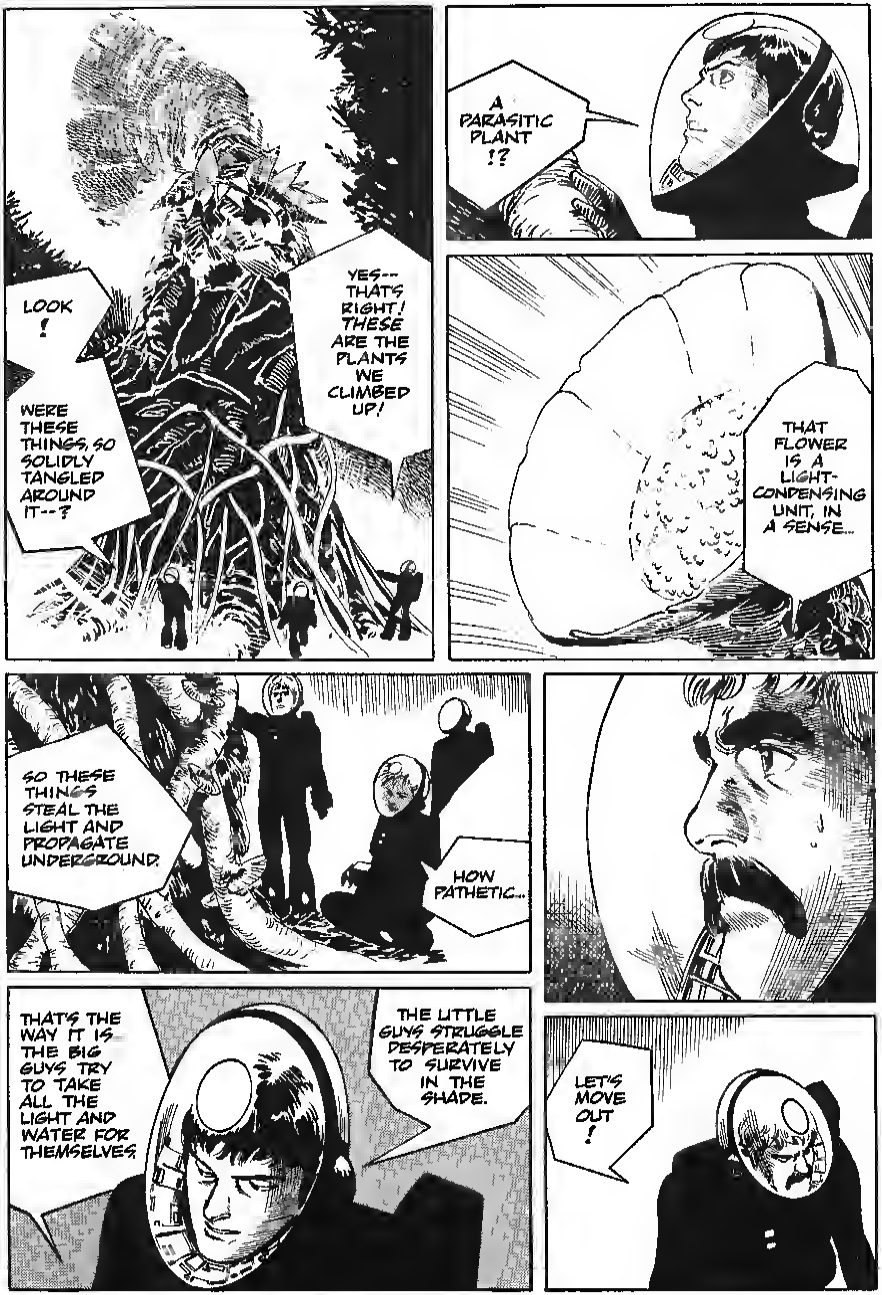




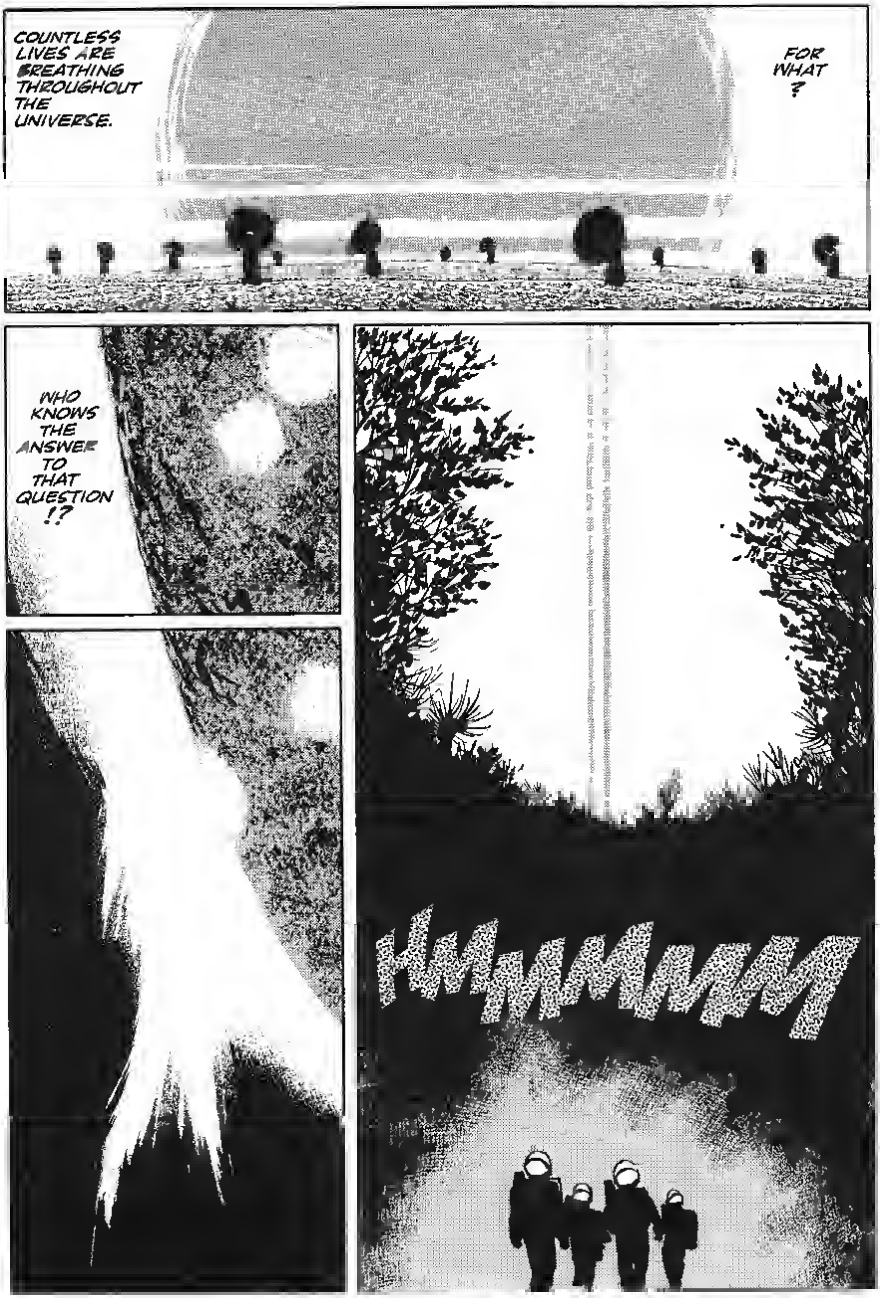
GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN.
LAST NIGHT I HAD A DREAM...
...A DREAM THAT BETELGEUSE CAUSED THE DISASTER TWO AND A HALF MILLION YEARS AGO.
BETELGEUSE, EH...?
VERY LIKELY...

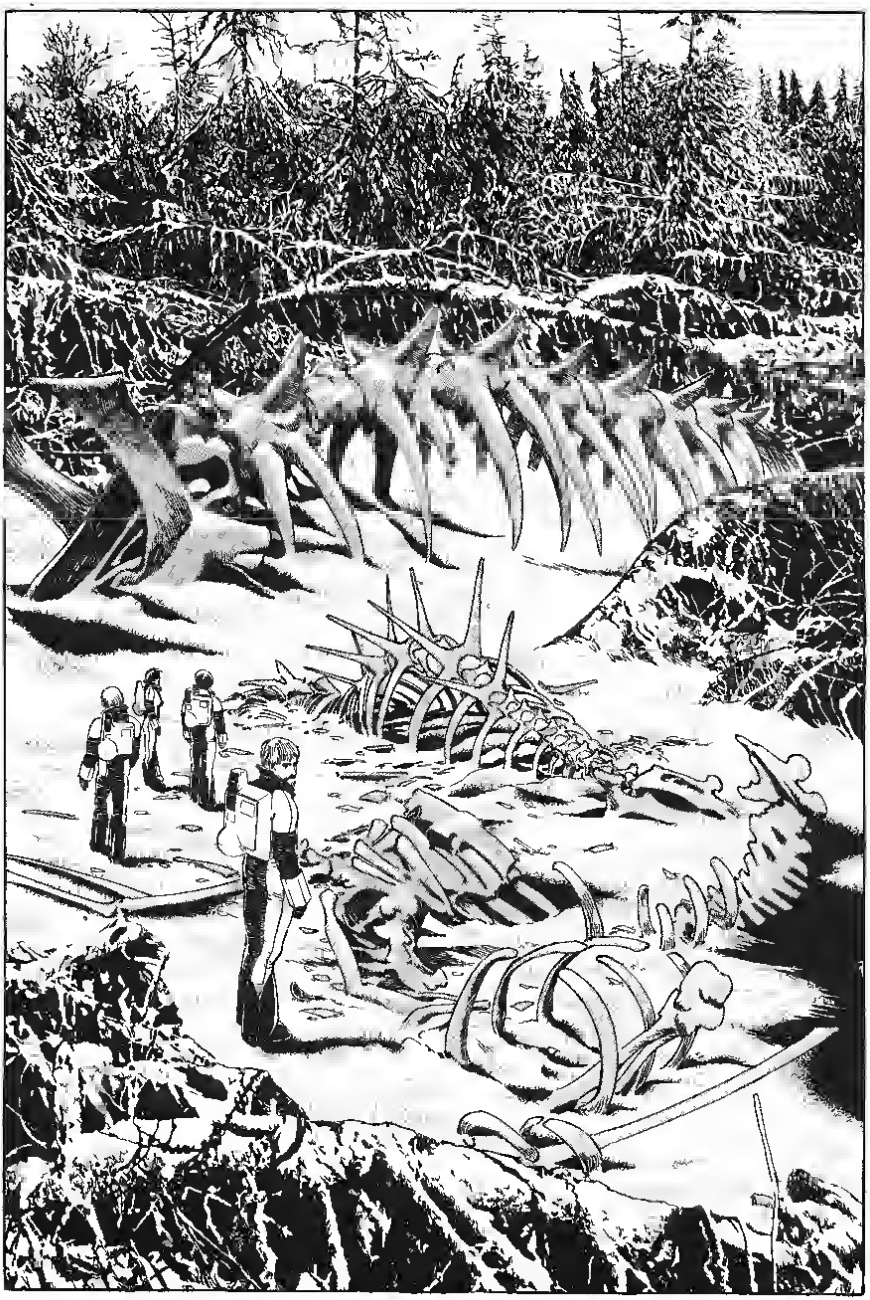

THE RED GIANT BETELGEUSE IS AN UNSTABLE VARIABLE STAR THAT CHANGES ITS BRIGHTNESS AND SIZE OVER A PERIOD OF TWO THOUSAND DAYS.
THE SCALE OF THE CHANGE IS GREAT EVEN COMPARED TO OTHER RED GIANTS.
THAT LIFE CAME INTO EXISTENCE ON ITS PLANET IS A MIRACLE IN ITSELF
EVEN A MINOR CHANGE IN RADIATION CAN HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT
OVER THE PAST SEVEN BILLION YEARS, THIS PLANET MUST HAVE BEEN ALMOST DESTROYED COUNTLESS TIMES...
FWIP


FWIP
FWIP


A PARASITIC PLANT !?
LOOK !
WERE THESE THINGS, SO SOLIDLY TANGLED AROUND IT--?
YES--- THAT'S RIGHT! THESE ARE THE PLANTS WE CLIMBED UP!
THAT FLOWER IS A LIGHT-CONDENSING UNIT, IN A SENSE...
SO THESE THINGS STEAL THE LIGHT AND PROPAGATE UNDERGROUND.
HOW PATHETIC...
THAT'S THE WAY IT IS THE BIG GUYS TRY TO TAKE ALL THE LIGHT AND WATER FOR THEMSELVES.
THE LITTLE GUYS STRUGGLE DESPERATELY TO SURVIVE IN THE SHADE.
LET'S MOVE OUT !

JUST WHAT IS A LIVING BEING ?
AND WHY DOES IT TRY TO GO ON LIVING ?
IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A HIGHLY EVOLVED RACE ?
BUT EVEN SUCH A RACE CAN BE EASILY CRUSHED BY THE SIMPLE MOVEMENT OF A CELESTIAL BODY..


COUNTLESS LIVES ARE BREATHING THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE.
FOR WHAT ?
WHO KNOWS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION !?
HMMMM



NO, THESE BONES ARE NEW. WHY ARE THEY IN PIECES LIKE THIS...?
BE CAREFUL. IT WORRIES ME THAT THIS PLACE IS ALL SAND.
NOTHING LIKE ANY ANIMALS I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE. ARE THEY FOSSILS?
NO ORDINARY SAND, CAPTAIN... IT'S PURE SODIUM.
SODIUM !?

KASPLUSH
AH!
BLAM
WHUD

Night 18: To be concluded